



Catholic Schools Week 2018

Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families



Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families

Dublin has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families 2018. From 21–26 August 2018, families and others from all over the world will gather to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith. This event presents a special opportunity for school families to celebrate not only the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children, but also the vital role that Catholic schools play in assisting parents.

In partnership with World Meeting of Families 2018, the Catholic Schools Week Steering Committee has developed a one-year catechetical programme for Catholic primary and post-primary schools. The theme for this programme is **Catholic Schools: Called to be a Family of Families**. The programme invites Catholic schools to reflect on and celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and parish through participation in four sub-themed catechetical moments.

Moment One: Families of Hope – November 2017

Moment Two: Families of Faith – January 2018 (Catholic Schools Week 2018)

Moment Three: Families of Love – Lent 2018

Moment Four: Families of Joy – April/May 2018

Catholic Schools Week 2018 will run in the same format as previous years but there is one important distinction. In 2018, Catholic Schools Week will be the high point of the primary and post-primary school catechetical programme. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2018 is **Catholic Schools: Families of Faith**.



- All resources will also be made available through the medium of Irish
- School resources will be made available in due course via: www.catholicschools.ie

The resources for Catholic Schools Week 2018 have been developed by Karen O'Donovan, Breda O'Brien, Margaret Farrell, Paula McKeown and Sharon Haughey, and coordinated/developed by David Kennedy.

Post-Primary School



Moment One Families of Hope

Each November (the month of the 'Holy Souls') the Church, as a family of families, collectively remembers those who have passed away in the hope of the resurrection. This November, as we remember those who have passed away, we invite Catholic schools to engage with the resources made available as part of Moment One: Families of Hope. The resources are rooted in our belief in Jesus' promise: 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die' (Jn 11:25–6). In this way, the resources for Moment One aim to assist our Catholic school families with their reflection and celebrations during the month of the 'Holy Souls'.

Resources:

- 1 Junior Cycle Lesson Plan
- 1 Senior Cycle Lesson Plan
- 1 Liturgical Resource
- 1 Board of Management Reflection
- 1 Additional School Assembly Resource

Moment Two Families of Faith (Catholic Schools Week 2018)

Catholic Schools Week 2018 will run in the same format as previous years but there is one important distinction. In 2018, Catholic Schools Week will be the high point of the year-long catechetical programme. The resources for Catholic Schools Week 2018 aim to encourage Catholic school communities to reflect on the fact that our school family is a 'family of families'. As in previous years, each day of Catholic Schools Week 2018 has a theme and a correlating resource for either junior or senior cycle: **Monday: Our Family at Home**; **Tuesday: Our School Family**; **Wednesday: Intergeneration Education**; **Thursday: Our Parish Family**; **Friday: Our World Family**.

Resources:

- 3 Junior Cycle Lesson Plans (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)
- 2 Senior Cycle Lesson Plans (Wednesday, Friday)
- 1 Liturgical Resource
- 1 Board of Management Reflection

Moment Three Families of Love



Love is a gift from God: 'We love because he first loved us' (1 Jn 4:19). In his document on love in the family, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis teaches us that love must go beyond our own desires. He tells us that 'generously serving others is far nobler than loving ourselves' (101). Each year, Christians from around the world celebrate Lent in preparation for Easter. In our Catholic school communities Lent has come to be synonymous with the arrival of the annual Trócaire Box. As part of Moment Three of the Catholic Schools Week 2018 catechetical programme, Catholic schools are invited to participate in the Trócaire Lenten Campaign.

Resources:

- Trócaire Lenten Resource Pack
- 1 Board of Management Reflection
- 1 School Assembly Resource

Moment Four Families of Joy

This final moment of the year-long Catholic Schools Week 2018 catechetical programme is rooted in authentic Christian joy. Authentic Christian joy has been of central importance to Pope Francis since the beginning of his pontificate. The centrality of joy to the pontificate of Pope Francis becomes clear when one observes that the word 'joy' appears 221 times across his papal writings. The family is where joy and love can be found and it is through the spirituality of the family that we grow in love for the Lord and one another. While our final moment is rooted in Pope Francis' pontificate and his papal writings, it also looks forward to the World Meeting of Families 2018, which is scheduled to take place in Dublin from 21–26 August.

Resources:

- 1 Junior Cycle Lesson Plan
- 1 Senior Cycle Lesson Plan
- 1 Liturgical Resource
- 1 Board of Management Reflection
- 1 Additional School Assembly Resource